

INTELLOFAX 23

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1X

COUNTRY Indochina

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT Reorganization of Military Forces of the
Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Cochinchina

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REFERENCE COPY

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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REASONS FOR REORGANIZATION

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1. A large military conference of military leaders of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV), held at Cao Lanh, Nambo (Cochinchina) from 10 to 18 May 1951, agreed on a revision of the military zones of Nam Bo into two inter-zones separated by the Mekong River. Previously the Nam Bo Front had been divided into four military zones (Zones 7, 8, 9 and the Special Zone of Saigon-Cholon) each having its own military commander. Under the new system, the zones will be called Le Lien Khu Mien Dong (Interzone of the East) and Le Lien Khu Mien Tay (Interzone of the West). This reorganization has a threefold purpose:
 - a. Unification of command in order to better direct large-scale operations.
 - b. Abolition of military commands has resulted in a monthly saving of four million Ho Chi Minh piasters.
 - c. Abolition of military command zones permits the disposition of a great number of valuable cadres of zone level for reinforcing principal as well as regional forces.

REINFORCEMENT OF REGIONAL FORCES

2. The regular DRV forces in Nam Bo, whose primary mission is to take the initiative in attacking French forces, are often obligated to come to the assistance of the regional forces in the area in purely defensive fighting due to the weakness of the regional forces there. This weakens the regular DRV forces and often leads to the abandonment of already prepared plans of attack. The DRV has need for a great number of courageous cadres of zone level in order to reinforce the command of the regular forces as well as to strengthen the presently weak regional forces.

MILITARY FORCES OF THE LIEN KHU MIEN DONG (INTERZONE OF THE EAST)

3. The Lien Khu Mien Dong does not possess any command of its won. It is directly commanded by the military command of Nam Bo (Bo Tu Linh Nambo).

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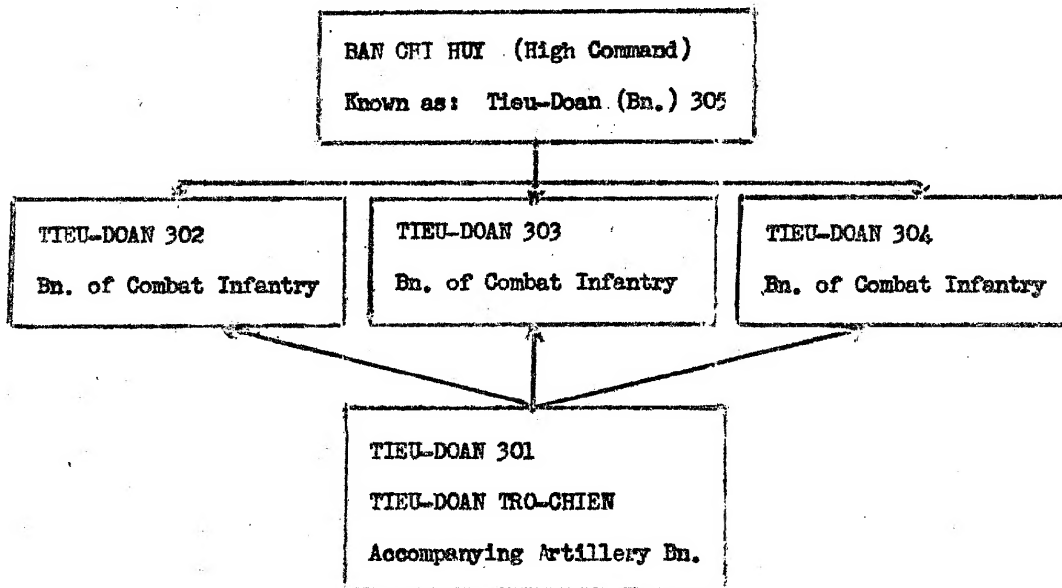
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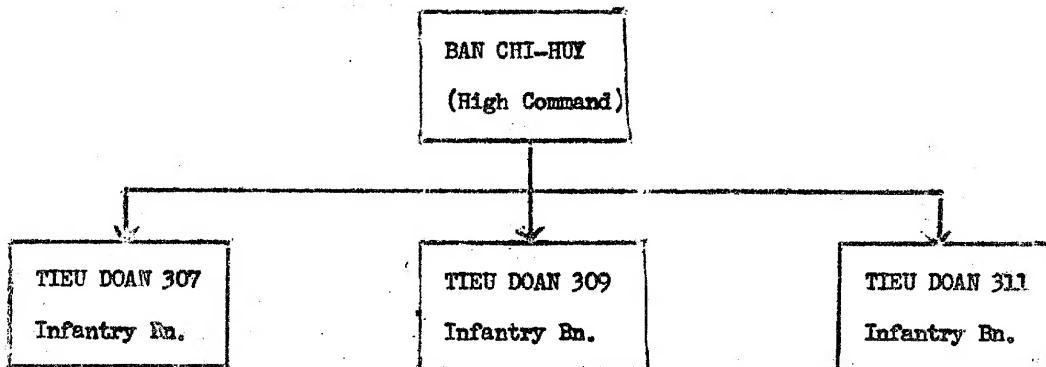
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Principal Forces (Chu Luc Quan):

a. Trung-Doan Chu-Luc Dong-Nai



b. Trung-Doan Chu-Luc Dong-Thap (Plaine des Joncs)

Regional Forces (Dia Phuong Quan)

4. Following the transfer of their best units in order to form new units of the regular forces, the remainder of the old Trung Doan regional brigades have been transformed into Regional Forces. The Regional Forces of each province are distributed in theory in the proportion of one company for each Delegation. The command of the Regional Forces is called the TINH DOI BO while the Delegation Command is called HUYEN DOI BO.
5. The current Regional Forces of the Interzone of the East are:
 - Baria formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 397
 - Bienh Hoa formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 310

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Thu Bau Mot formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 301
 Tay Ninh formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 311
 Gia Dinh formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 306 and 312
 Cholon formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 308
 Tan An formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 120
 My Tho formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 105
 Bentre formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 99
 Long Chau Sa (Long Xuyen-Chau Doc-Sadec) formed from the remains
 of the Trung Doan 115

Popular Village Guerrilla Forces (Dan Quan Du Kich Ia)

6. The Popular Guerrilla Forces of each village are composed of:

Du Kich Xa	Village guerrillas
Du Kich Bi Mat	Underground guerrillas
Dan Quan Quang Mau	Popular exemplary troops
Dan Quan Tu Ve Nam	Popular male troops of auto-defense
Dan Quan Tu Ve Nu	Popular female troops of auto-defense
7. The Popular Village Guerrilla Forces constitute the reserves of the Regional Forces; and the Regional Forces, in turn, constitute the reserves of the Principal Forces.
8. While the military command of the Interzone of the East is studying the reinforcement of the regular forces through use of some of the best cadres now available for other duty as a result of the abolition of former commands of Zones 7, 8, and Saigon-Cholon, and the formation of new regular units, the reinforcement of the regional forces of the Plains des Jones has already been partially begun. Some of the ablest cadres from the zone and regular force level have been assigned to the provincial command of the regional forces. Among these are:

Dang Van Thong (formerly Deputy Chief of Staff, ex-Zone 8) assigned to the Tinh Doi Bo of Long Chau Sa (Long Xuyen-Chau Doc-Sadec)

Nguyen Huu Xuyen (formerly Commander of the Trung Doan Chu Lu Guu Long) assigned to the Tinh Doi Bo of Vinh Tra (Vinh Long-Travinh)

Dong Van Cong (formerly Commander of the Trung Doan Chu Luc Dong Thap) assigned to the Tinh Doi Bo of Bentre

Nguyen Van Cong (formerly Chief of Staff of ex-Zone 8) assigned to the Tinh Doi Bo of Mytho

Le Quoc Sang (formerly Adjutant of the Trdoa Chu Luc Dong Thap) assigned to the Tinh Doi Bo of Tan An

MILITARY FORCES OF THE LIEN KHU MIEN TAY (INTERZONE OF THE WEST)

9. While awaiting the definitive formation of its military command, the Lien Khu Mien Tay is temporarily under the provisional administration of the military command of the ex-Zone 9. The Commander is Nguyen Chanh and the Political Commissar is Bui Thanh Khiet, both are confirmed Communists.

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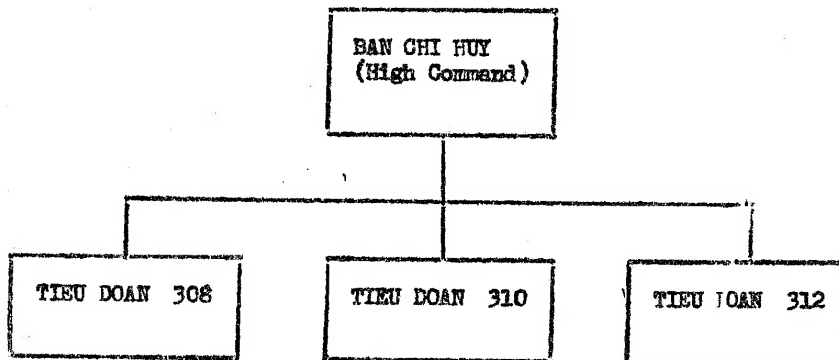
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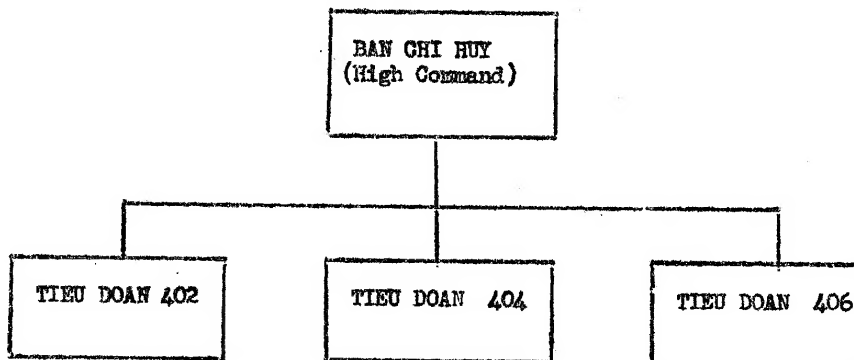
10. Nguyen Chanh was known in Bangkok in 1947 by the name of Nguyen Char. He returned to Nam Bo across Cambodia as head of the Bo Doi Tran Phu (Overseas Vietnamese) which became Trung Doan 109 in 1948. He was afterward recalled to Zone 8 of which he was Chief of Staff in 1949. Chanh was later summoned to Bac Bo (North Vietnam) where he received training in military affairs and Communist party activity. Upon his return to Nam Bo, Chanh occupied the position of Chief of Staff of the Military Command of Nam Bo.

Principal Forces (Chu Luc Quan)

- a. Trung Doan Chu Luc "Gun Long" (Responsible for the sector between the branches of the Mekong)



- b. Trung Doan Chu Luc "Tay Do"

Regional Forces (Dia Phuong Quan)

11. The Regional Forces of each province of the Lien Khu Mien Tay are under the command of the Tinh Doi Bo and are distributed in the proportion of one Dai Doi for each Delegation.
12. The Regional Forces of the Interzone of the West are:

Vinh Tra (Vinh Long-Travinh) formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 109 and 11

Soc Trang formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 125

Bac Lieu formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 126

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Cantho formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 122

Rach Gia formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 124

Hatien formed from the remains of the Trung Doan 128

SYSTEM OF RECRUITMENT

13. On 4 November 1949, Ho Chi Minh signed the order of General Mobilization. According to this mobilization order, all young people, male and female, between the ages of 18 and 45 must be mobilized and enlisted in the popular troops, the command and training sections of which are rigidly controlled by loyal Communist party members. In this manner the Communists can indoctrinate the entire population in military discipline and be assured of support and obedience.

NEWLY FORMED UNITS

14. A new Trung Doan Chu Luc named Trung Chu Luc U Minh is in the process of being formed in the forest of U Minh at Rach Gia.
15. Two Battalions of Principal Forces have been newly formed. They are Tieu Doan 405 and Tieu Doan 408.

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